



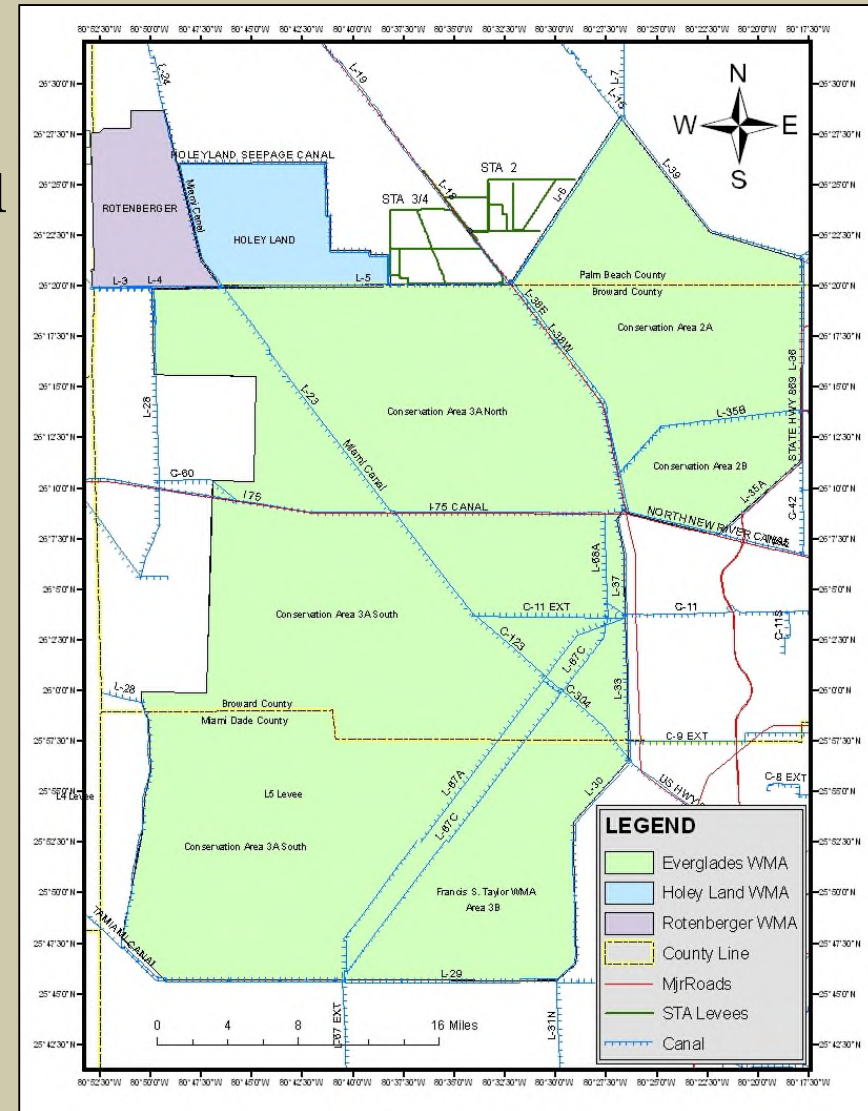
# Everglades and Francis S. Taylor, Holey Land, and Rotenberger WMAs (ECWMA) White-tailed Deer Monitoring and Management



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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

# FWC Responsibilities

- Responsible for fish and wildlife and land management on Everglades and Francis S. Taylor, Holey Land, and Rotenberger Wildlife Management Areas



# Hunting Opportunities

- Deer/hog
  - Archery, Muzzleload, General Gun-Walk, General Gun-Vehicle (Quota Hunt)
  - Collect biological and hunter pressure data
  - Rule revisions and changes
  - CWD Samples
- Small Game
- Migratory Birds – Waterfowl/Snipe
- Conditional Reptiles



Buck only  
Harvest Results



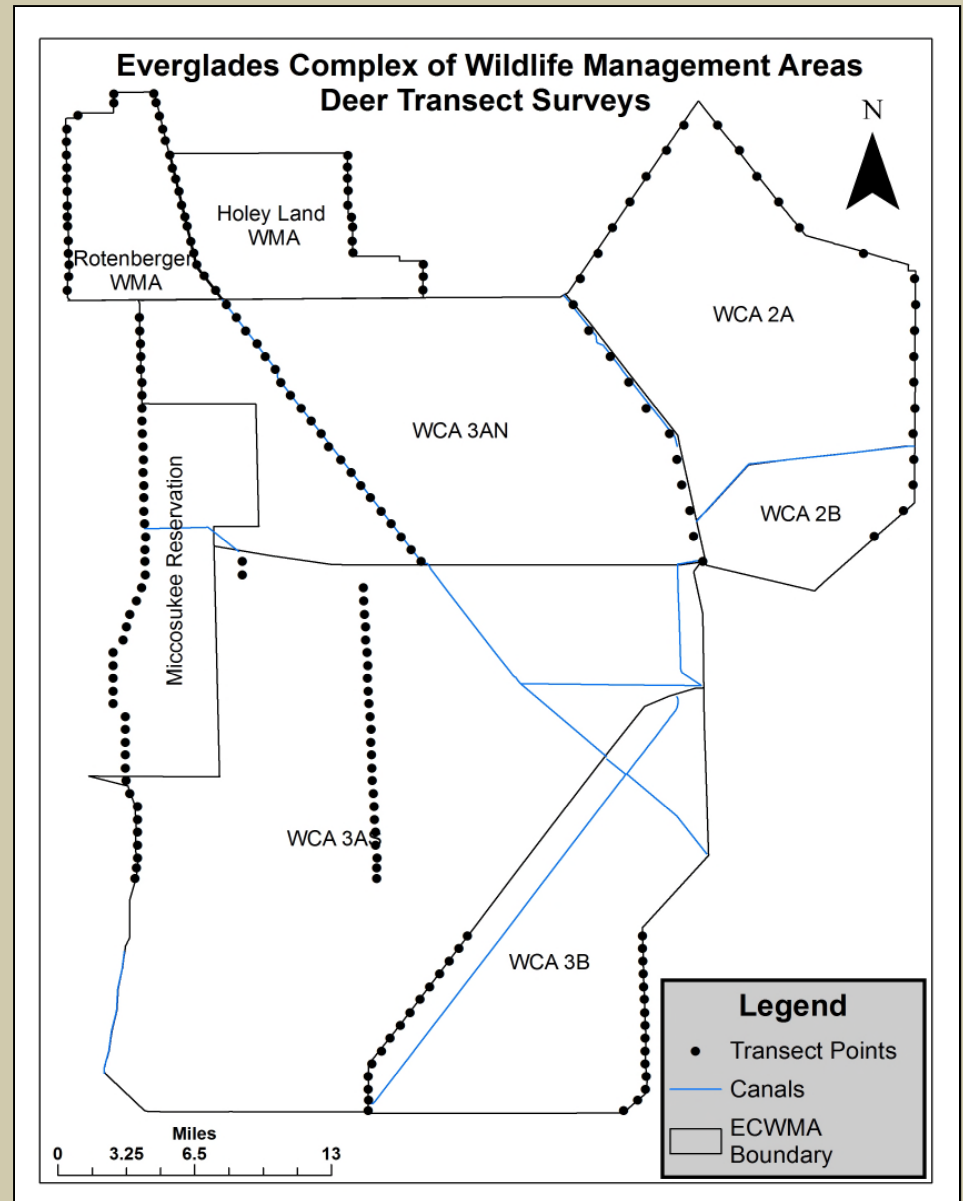
| YEAR  | Everglades WMA | Rotenberger WMA | Holey Land WMA |
|-------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2015  | 17             | 3               | 13             |
| 2014  | 18             | 7               | 18             |
| 2013  | C              | C               | C              |
| 2012* | 4              | 13              | 15             |
| 2011  | 16             | 7               | 22             |

\*2 of 4 seasons closed



# Aerial Deer Surveys

- FWC monitoring deer since 1959 but conducting aerial surveys since 1980s
- Conducted annually in May
- Best survey method for habitat type and size of area
- East-west transects over areas
- Typically takes ~two weeks with two helicopters flying everyday





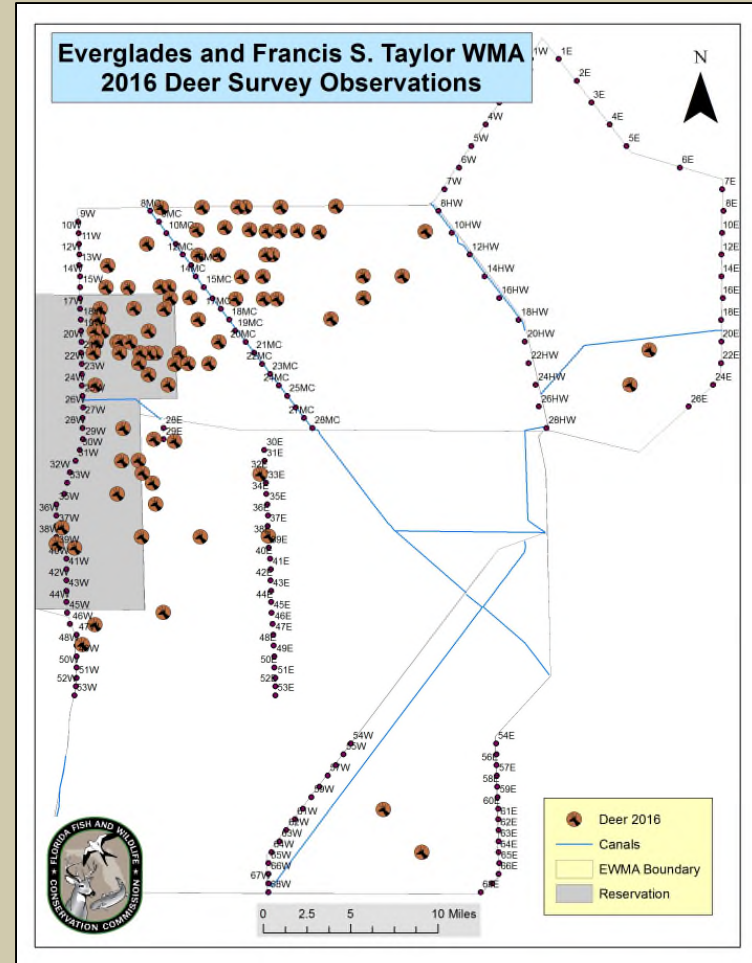
# Aerial Deer Surveys

- Areas flown at least twice to capture population and recruitment data
- Data is used to calculate population indices, recruitment rates, buck:doe ratios, and since 2008 for some areas, population estimates
- Information is summarized in a recommendation report used to determine quota for vehicle hunts



# Aerial Deer Surveys

- Deer management goals:
  - Maintain herd within long-term carrying capacity of habitat
  - Maximize public hunting opportunities
- Quota recommendations are based on multiple factors:
  - Population index
  - Average recruitment rate
  - Success rate for vehicle hunters
  - Conservative harvest rate
  - Average deer taken during walk hunts



# Deer Survey Data

| Area        | 2016 Population Index | 5 Year Average |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Everglades  | 475                   | 623            |
| Holey Land  | 135                   | 194            |
| Rotenberger | 31                    | 47             |

| Area        | 2016 Population Estimate | 5 Year Average |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Everglades  | 609                      | 780            |
| Holey Land  | 236                      | 275            |
| Rotenberger | 41                       | 63             |

| Area        | 2016 Recruitment | 5 Year Average |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| Everglades  | 11%              | 28%            |
| Holey Land  | 2%               | 21%            |
| Rotenberger | 14%              | 21%            |





# High Water Monitoring

- FWC monitors wildlife and habitat conditions throughout all high water events:
  - Weekly levee spotlight surveys
  - Weekly tree island browse surveys
  - Cameras placed on tree islands
  - Water level monitoring
  - Provide technical recommendations



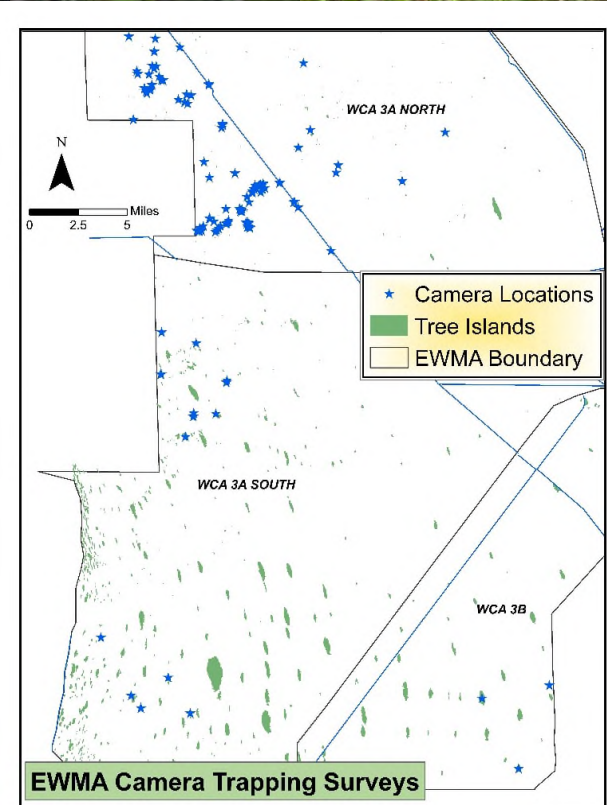
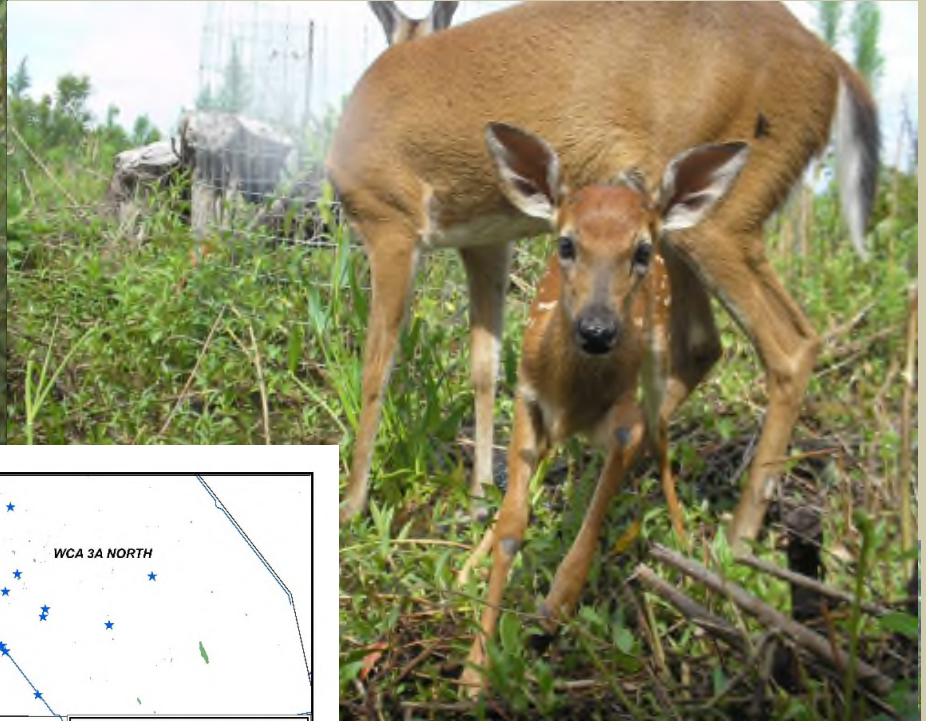


# Monitoring Photos

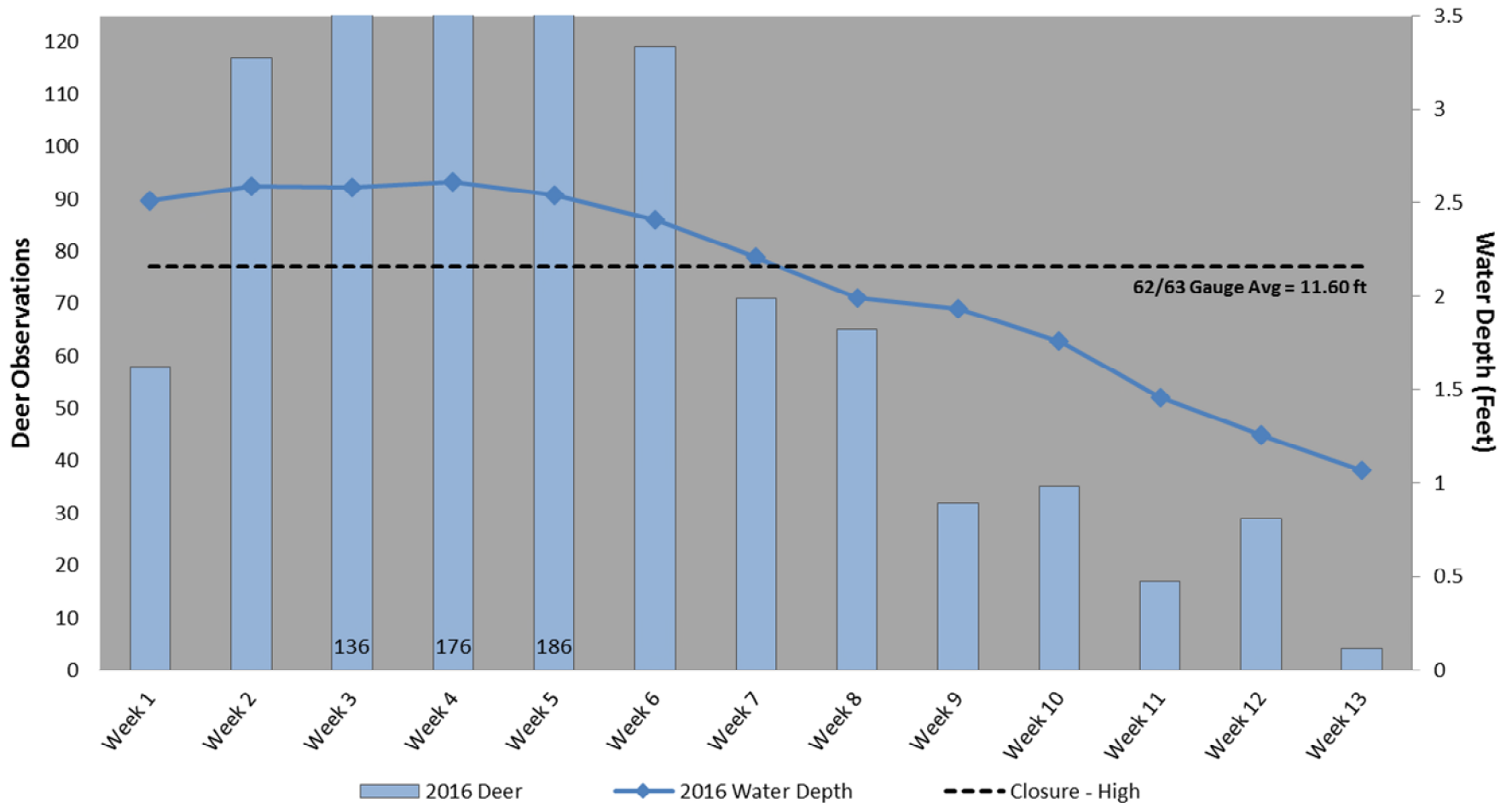




# Camera Trapping/Surveillance



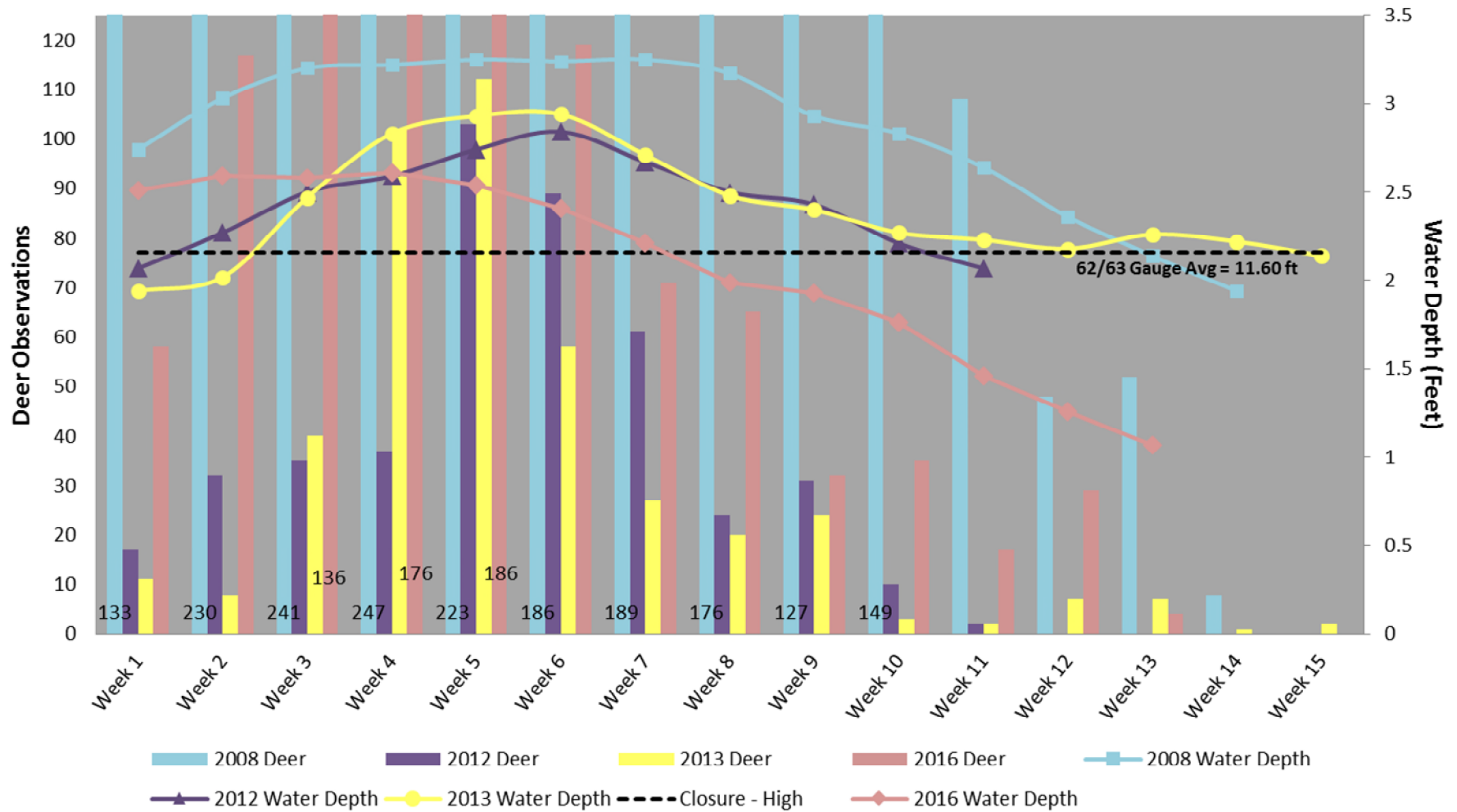
## 2016 L5 Levee Spotlight Surveys in the Everglades & Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area



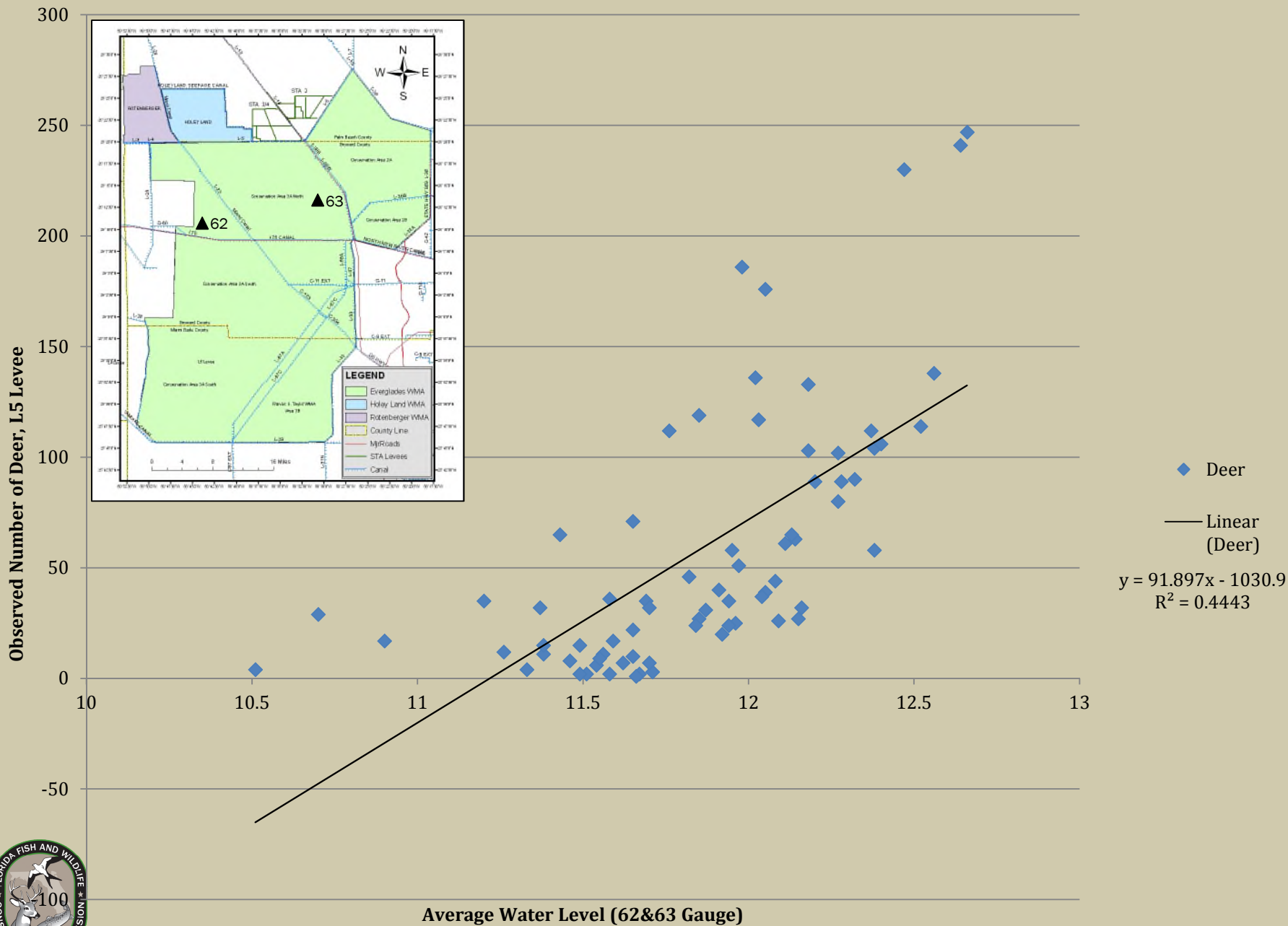
High Water Closure = 11.60 AVE 62/63 Gauge (~2.16 ft).



# L5 Levee Spotlight Surveys (2008, 2012, 2013, and 2016) in Everglades & Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area



High Water Closure = 11.60 AVE 62/63 Gauge (~2.16 ft).



# Questions?

